THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SATURDAY • JULY 08, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION

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SC REFUSES TO EXTEND DEADLINE FOR SPICEJET TO PAY MARAN, KAL AIRWAYS

The apex cour rejected the low-cost carrier's plea for more time to execute the ₹578 cr arbitral award related to a share-transfer dispute

ENTIRE AWARD NOW EXECUTABLE: COURT

In a major setback for the cash-strapped airline, the top court directed it to pay the entire arbitral award to media baron Kalanidhi Maran and Kal Airways. A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha did not accept the submissions of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for SpiceJet, and rejected his plea to extend the time to make the payment

SC CALLS FOR COMMERCIAL MORALITY

- The SC observed that businesses must be done with commercial morality and added "If orders are not complied with, consequences must follow"
- The case pertains to a dispute arising out of the non-issuance of warrants in favour of the airline's former promoter Maran after the transfer of ownership to Ajay Singh, the controlling shareholder of SpiceJet

₹380 cr

MONEY OWED BY SPICEJET TO MARAN, THE OWNER OF SUN TV NETWORK

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Siddaramaiah presents record 14th budget with outlay of ₹3.27 lakh crore to fulfill poll promises

IT'S A 'MISSION GUARANTEES' STATE BUDGET

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

WITH the main focus on generating funds to roll out the five guarantees that Congress promised during its campaign for the May 10 Assembly elections, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday presented a Rs 3,27,747-crore state budget, proposing to hike excise duty on Indian Made Liquor and beer by 20%, and increase borrowings, guidance value of immovable properties, stamps & registration duty and motor vehicle tax.

In his record 14th budget (seventh as CM), Siddaramaiah, who also holds the finance portfolio, proposed the hike in liquor prices (including beer) to set a new excise revenue target of Rs 36,000 crore, while proposing to raise Rs 86,068 crore through increased borrowings; Rs 25,000 crore through raising stamps & registration duty and upward revision of guidance value; and Rs 11,500 crore through upward revision of motor vehicle tax. This is to meet the annual Rs 52,000 crore estimated expenditure to sustain the five guarantees reaching 1.3 crore families across the state.

As the state is in the middle of the financial year, it is estimated to spend Rs 35,410 crore on the guarantees, which is over 14% of the total revenue expenditure. Siddaramaiah has borrowed close to Rs 10,000 crore, which is more compared to Bommai government's budget presented in March 2023.

CONTINUED ON: P9

Through our five guarantees, approximately Rs 52,000 crore will be spent in a year. The benefits are expected to reach about 1.3 crore families

Siddaramaiah, CM

This budget is a politically motivated, focussed on opposing the Union government and the previous state government

Basavaraj Bommai, BJP leader & former CM

It is a cut-and-paste budget, which was reserved only to blame PM Modi and the previous BJP government in the state. It is limited to issuing a political statement

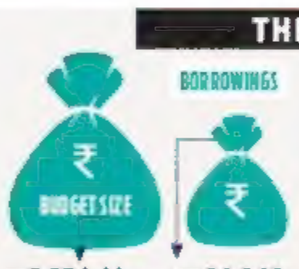
H D Kumaraswamy, JDS leader

GIST OF BUDGET

According to the budget presented by CM Siddaramaiah, the total revenue receipts estimated for 2023-24 is ₹2,38,410 crore against a total expenditure of ₹3,27,747 crore. The revenue receipts include ₹1,75,653 crore of own tax revenue, (including GST compensation), ₹12,500 crore anticipated from non-tax revenue, devolution of ₹37,252 crore and grant-in-aid of ₹13,005 crore estimated to be received from the Union Government. This is expected to be supplemented by gross borrowings of ₹85,818 crore, non-debt capital receipts of ₹23 crore and loan recoveries of ₹228 crore, taking the estimated total revenue receipts to ₹3,24,478 crore. The total expenditure includes ₹2,50,933 crore (revenue), ₹54,374 crore (capital) and loan repayment of ₹22,441 crore.

K'TAKA BUDGET 2023-24 DECODED

THE BALANCING ACT



₹3.27 lakh cr ₹86,068cr

- ₹52,000 cr for five guarantees per annum (₹35,410 cr for current fiscal)
- ₹30,000 cr for financial security schemes
- ₹36,000 cr revenue target for Excise Dept
- ₹100 cr for Karnataka State Christian Development Corporation

Tap water connections to 25 l households

'Koosina Mane' (child shelter) in 4,000 gram panchayats to give jobs for women and health, nutrition and safety of children aged below 6

Thrust to boost GSDP from 13% -17% towards '1 trillion dollar economy'

Egg/peanut chikki/banana, to be given to students twice a week

With 20% duty hike, liquor to get costlier

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

WITH CM Siddaramaiah announcing a hike of 20% in additional excise duty (AED) on Indian Made Liquor (IML) on all 18 slabs of Excise and 10% hike in AED on beer, from 175% to 185%, the burden of increased duties will be passed on to distilleries & breweries (D&B) and consumers.

The retailers will not be affected by the hike in AED. "The burden will be passed to consumers. People will not stop drinking because of the price hike. They will squeeze their budget to afford a drink. Those going out for fine dining may have a drink at home to avoid splurging. The bigger concern is bootlegging and 'seconds' liquor," sources said.

Alcohol in Karnataka is priced and taxed according to its slab. There are 18 excise slabs, with the cheapest alcohol falling in the first slab and the most expensive IML in 18th slab. "Of the 18, the second slab alone contributes over 55% to Excise revenue. The present excise duty on the second slab is Rs 245 per bulk litre (BL)," a source said. P3

State to have own education policy

Bengaluru: The state government has decided not to continue with the central government's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah officially announcing the formulation of a New Education Policy in the state. "NEP implemented by the Central government is incompatible with the federal system of governance. It has several anomalies which undermine the Constitution and democracy," he said. P3

Fake MLA enters House, sits amid oppn

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a major security breach, a 70-year-old man trespassed into Vidhana Soudha on Friday to watch the budget presentation. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara has sought a report from the police on the security breach.

Claiming to be an MLA from Molakalmuru constituency in Chitradurga district, the man, identified as CD Thipperudrappa alias Kariyappa from Doddapete in Molakalmuru taluk, entered the Vidhana Soudha premises around 12.10 pm.

He sat on Devadurga JDS MLA Karemma G Nayak's seat and was watching the Assembly proceedings when JDS MLA Sharanagouda Kandkur from Gurmitkal constituency, who sits next to Karemma, sought to know his identity. Suspecting something amiss, Kandkur immediately brought the matter to the notice of the Speaker.

Thipperudrappa, who was inside the Assembly hall for 15 minutes, later disappeared. However, the marshals managed to trace Thipperudrappa and handed him over to Vidhana Soudha police.

"The man seems to be mentally unstable. He claims to be an advocate. He entered Vidhana Soudha through the East Gate," said a police officer. CONTINUED ON: P5

Gujarat HC refuses to stay Rahul conviction

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday suffered another setback as the Gujarat High Court rejected his review petition that requested suspending his conviction in the Modi surname defamation case.

Observing that the need of the hour is "purity in politics", Justice Hemant Prachchhak in his 125-page ruling said, "the applicant is trying to seek a stay of his conviction on absolutely non-existent grounds. It is a well-settled principle of law that a stay of conviction is not a rule but an exception to be resorted to in rare cases."

The judge pointed out that as many as 10 criminal cases were pending against Rahul, including one filed by the grandson of Veer Savarkar in Pune for making allegedly defamatory statements against the freedom fighter during the Congress leader's recent UK visit. Besides, a complaint was filed in a Lucknow court.

As such, "refusal to stay the conviction would not in any way result in injustice to the applicant," the court said.

The judge added that "representatives of people should be men of clear antecedent." He went on to say that Rahul's alleged act would also be punishable under Section 171G of the IPC (false statement in connection with an election).

Will approach Supreme Court, says Congress

The Congress called the Gujarat HC verdict disappointing but not unexpected and said it will move the Supreme Court. The party also alleged that the government is finding newer techniques to throttle Rahul's voice

The judge held that the trial court's order handing a two-year jail term to Rahul for his Modi slur, which led to his disqualification from the Lok Sabha, was "just, proper and legal". He said a public worker losing his job is not a factor or reason to exercise discretion under Section 389(1) of the CrPC. It added that the right to vote is neither a basic nor a common law right, but rather a legislative right at best.

The court rebutted arguments that the alleged offence wasn't serious as it provides for a maximum punishment of two years. It said the maximum punishment is not the only indicator of how serious the offence is; other factors, such as the magnitude of the problem and its impact on society could also be considered.

The judge went on to claim it was not an "individual-centric defamation case", but something which affected a "large section of the society".

OTHER INTERESTING VERDICTS

'Abusive words against the PM not seditious'

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court said abusive words against the prime minister could be treated as derogatory and irresponsible but not sedition, while quashing a case of sedition against a school management. The court said the ingredients of Section 153(A) (causing disharmony between religious groups) of the IPC were not there in the case. The case was about a play enacted by the children criticising the various enactments of the government. P9

'Sex not rape if marriage word isn't kept'

Cuttack: The Orissa HC said if a consensual physical relationship was based on the promise of marriage but it could not materialise for some reason, it cannot be considered rape. The allegation was made by a woman who is a friend of the petitioner. "There is a subtle difference between a breach of promise made in good faith but subsequently could not be fulfilled, and a false promise to marry," the judge ruled.

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EXPRESS READ

Woman buried alive as landslip hits her house

Mangaluru/Karwar: Even as Dakshina Kannada saw a break in rainfall on Friday, a 45-year-old woman was buried alive when a landslide hit her house at Nandavara in Bantwal taluk of the district. Her 20-year-old daughter was pulled out of the debris. In Uttara Kannada district, two people were washed away in flooding due to heavy rain.

Three killed, four hurt in Manipur gunbattle

Guwahati: In continued gunbattles in Manipur, three persons were killed while four others were injured on Friday. A gunfight erupted at a place between Awang Leikei in Meitei-majority Bishnupur and Kangvai in Kuki-majority Churachandpur districts around 1.30 am in which three persons were killed and three others were injured.

ED attaches assets of Manish Sisodia, wife

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has attached two immovable assets of arrested AAP leader Manish Sisodia and his wife apart from bank deposits worth Rs 11.49 lakh in the Delhi excise money laundering case. The probe agency has issued a provisional order under the PMLA to attach assets worth Rs 52.24 crore of the accused.

CBI arrests 3 rly employees over Odisha train pile-up

AMIT MUKHERJEE @ New Delhi

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday made its first arrests in connection with the June 2 train accident involving Coromandel Express, Yashwantpur-Howrah Express, and a stationary goods train at Bahanaga Bazar in Odisha that killed more than 290 people.

Three officials — Senior section engineer (signalling) Arun Kumar Mahanta, section engineer (signalling) Mohammad Amir Khan, and technician Pappu Kumar — were arrested by the agency under Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) of the IPC and Section 153 of the Railways Act, 1989.

According to sources in the agency, these three had knowledge about the 'unusual behaviour' of the switching mechanism in the track-changing system. The accident could have been averted had the error been quickly communicated to the concerned official — the station manager of Bahanaga Bazar, where the accident had happened. The arrests come a month after the bureau lodged a first information report over the ghastly accident.

Also, it comes a week after the Commissioner of Railways Safety (CRS) submitted a report blaming human error by the staff working in the signaling and telecommunication department. The report, however, ruled out any sabotage or mechanical fault.

The 40-page CRS report stated that the triple-train collision took place owing to lapses in the signaling-circuit alteration carried out at the Bahanaga Bazaar station, which resulted in Coromandel Express being shown the wrong signal.

BJP names poll heads for 4 states

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP on Friday appointed nine of its senior leaders, including four Union ministers, as election in-charges and co-in-charges in the four poll-bound states — Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. Union minister for environment Bhupendra Yadav and Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw were appointed as election in-charge and co-in-charge respectively for Madhya Pradesh, the first of the four states to go to polls. In Congress-ruled Rajasthan, which will go to polls after MP, parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi will be the election in-charge. Former Gujarat deputy chief minister Nitin Patel and senior leader Kuldeep Bishnoi will be co-in-charge.

In Chhattisgarh, also ruled by Congress, Om Prakash Mathur will lead the party's election preparations. Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya will be the co-incharge. Prakash Javadekar was appointed as election in-charge for Telangana with Sunil Bansal as co-incharge.

Meanwhile, BJP national president J P Nadda chaired a meeting of party's senior leaders and office-bearers in Northern region and reviewed poll strategies.